



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*House of Representatives*

*State House, Boston 02133-1020*

VINCENT A. PEDONE  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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Committees:  
Ways and Means  
Energy  
Housing and Urban Development

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Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Attorney Hesse:

I would like to add my comments to the record and add my voice to those in support of the proposed settlement in the ongoing Microsoft lawsuit.

As a State Representative from Worcester, Massachusetts who represents an older urban district, including some of the poorest areas of the city, I feel it is important for me to offer some thoughts regarding the proposed settlement. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has made educating our children the top priority. Over the past seven years, the Massachusetts legislature has redoubled its efforts relative to funding of the public education system in the state. This was in response to a commitment by the legislature to bring the Massachusetts Public School System into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

With this in mind, we have also made available capital funds and grants to upgrade our schools computer systems and school technology. However, because of new and innovative advances in computer systems, software and internet connections, systems that were purchased just five years ago are obsolete. Staying ahead of the technology curve is attainable, but very costly.

Although I am not familiar with the intricacies of the agreement, I do know that there is one component of the agreement that will help scores of school children in the city of Worcester: Microsoft will provide 200,000 computers to eligible schools at almost no cost. I applaud the Agreement's approach of directing part of the settlement towards public schools.

We have all heard about the digital divide that exists along socio-economic lines. This divide has an adverse effect on public education. Research states that 82% of classrooms in higher income communities have Internet access while only 60% of classrooms in poorer communities are connected.

For this reason, I support the aims of the Settlement Agreement that has been proposed. This agreement will provide students in my district, as well as throughout the Commonwealth, with access to technology that has been too costly for communities to purchase.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this manner.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vincent A. Pedone".  
Vincent Pedone  
State Representative